

Name _____

Diana Taurasi: The Basketball Legend Who Changed the Game

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Diana Taurasi's college career at the University of Connecticut (UConn) was marked by her leadership and the team's success in winning three consecutive NCAA championships. Her contributions to UConn's basketball program elevated the program's status and solidified her reputation as a talented player. This success laid the foundation for her future career, and her leadership skills honed during this time became integral to her success in the WNBA and on the international stage.
2. Diana Taurasi's advocacy for equality and her support for the LGBTQ+ community have made her a role model off the court. The importance of athletes using their platform for social change lies in their ability to reach a wide audience and influence positive change in society. Taurasi has used her visibility to advocate for important causes, such as gender equality and LGBTQ+ rights, promoting inclusion and acceptance. Her actions demonstrate the power of athletes to effect change beyond their sports careers.
3. A memorable "clutch" moment in Diana Taurasi's career was her performance during the 2009 WNBA Finals. In Game 2, with just seconds remaining and her team, the Phoenix Mercury, trailing by two points, Taurasi made a game-winning three-pointer. This moment showcased her ability to perform under pressure and her reputation for making crucial shots in critical situations.
4. The most inspiring aspect of Diana Taurasi's life and legacy is her dedication to the game of basketball, her leadership both on and off the court, and her commitment to advocating for positive change. Her story can motivate young athletes and individuals to pursue their dreams with passion and determination, while also using their influence to make a positive impact on society. Taurasi's legacy serves as a reminder that sports can be a powerful platform for promoting equality, acceptance, and social justice.

